CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A cutting device comprising:

a housing comprising first and second separable portions, the first portion comprising a locking aperture, the second portion comprising an attachment aperture; and

a locking apparatus for removably attaching the first and second portions of the housing, the locking apparatus comprising an attachment portion adapted to be fixedly attached in the attachment aperture, and a locking arm adapted to be releasably locked into the locking aperture.

2. The cutting device according to claim 1, wherein the attachment aperture and locking aperture are correspondingly positioned wherein with the attachment portion fixedly attached in the attachment aperture, the locking arm becomes aligned with the locking aperture when the first and second portions of the housing are aligned for assembly.

3. The cutting device according to claim 1, wherein the locking arm comprises i) an upstanding portion oriented generally perpendicular to an axis of the housing, ii) an actuating arm extending laterally from a free end of the upstanding portion, so that downward force on the actuating arm causes a bending of the upstanding portion, and iii) a locking lip on the free end of the upstanding portion extending laterally in a direction opposite to the direction of bending of the upstanding portion.

4. The cutting device according to claim 1, wherein the attachment aperture comprises an attachment shoulder, and wherein the attachment portion of the locking apparatus comprises at least one extension for being locked in the attachment aperture against the attachment shoulder.

5. The cutting device according to claim 1, wherein the housing is constructed of metal, and the locking apparatus is constructed of resilient plastic.

6. The cutting device according to claim 1, wherein the locking apparatus further comprises a return spring and blade carrier integrally molded therewith.

7. In an improved cutting device having a housing formed of first and second portions, a return spring, and a blade carrier biased by the return spring, the improvement comprising:

a locking apparatus for releasably attaching the first and second portions of the housing, the locking apparatus being integrally molded with the return spring and the blade carrier.

8. The improved cutting device according to claim 7 wherein

the first portion of the housing comprises a locking aperture, and the second portion of the housing comprises an attachment aperture; and

the locking apparatus comprises an attachment portion for being fixedly attached in the attachment aperture, and a locking arm adapted to be removably locked into the locking aperture.

9. The improved cutting device according to claim 8, wherein the attachment aperture and locking aperture are correspondingly positioned wherein the locking arm becomes aligned with the locking aperture when the first and second portions of the housing are aligned for assembly.

10. The cutting device according to claim 8, wherein the locking arm comprises i) an upstanding portion oriented generally perpendicular to an axis of the housing, ii) an actuating arm extending laterally from a free end of the upstanding portion, so that downward force on the

actuating arm causes a bending of the upstanding portion, and iii) a locking lip on the free end of the upstanding portion extending laterally in a direction opposite to the direction of bending of the upstanding portion.

11. The cutting device according to claim 8, wherein the attachment aperture comprises an attachment shoulder, and wherein the attachment portion of the locking apparatus comprises at least one extension for being locked in the attachment aperture against the attachment shoulder.

12. The cutting device according to claim 7, wherein the housing is constructed of metal, and the locking apparatus is constructed of plastic.

13. A cutting device comprising:

a housing; and

an integrally molded blade carrier, return spring, and releasable housing lock disposed within the housing.

14. A cutting device comprising:

a metallic housing comprising first and second separable portions; and

a plastic locking apparatus for removably locking the first and second portions of the housing, the locking apparatus comprising an attachment portion for being fixedly attached to the first portion of the housing, and a locking arm adapted to be removably locked to the second portion of the housing.